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COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

VOL. VIII. No. 3.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY, 20, 1805.

[PRICE 10D.]

" William the First, King of Prussia, never, with respect to financial concerns, pardoned either negligence
" or fraud. One of his Receivers, resident at Königsbergh, having in the chest, entrusted to his care, a
" considerable sum not immediately wanted for the public service, took out ten thousand crowns which
" he wished to apply to some private purpose. He, at the same time, deposited in the chest, a
" memorandum, stating that he owed the said sum to the public, and that he would replace it in a short
" space of time. The Receiver, who was a man very much esteemed, was possessed of large real estates.
" The King, quite unexpectedly, visited Königsbergh, the same day examined the chest, found the
" memorandum, ascertained the deficit, and caused the Receiver to be hanged, as an unfaithful servant."
THIEBAULT'S Anecdotes of a 20 Year's Residence at Berlin. Vol. II. page 11.*

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SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

ATHOL CLAIM. (continued from p. 52.)

The Reports, and other printed documents, appertaining to this subject make a folio volume of no small bulk. The greater part of these must be analysed, in order to the presenting a full view of the conduct of those, through whose means the grant has been recently made to the Duke of Athol. Such a view I shall, in the course of a few weeks, endeavour to present. At present it is my intention merely to lay before my readers, the *Protest* entered upon the Journals of the House of Lords; accompanied with a few remarks, copied chiefly from the Morning Chronicle.—The following is a copy of the *Protest*.—" **DISSENTIENT.** 1st, because the bill in question appears to be grounded on the following recitals, which have not been supported by evidence.—The preamble recites that the Isle of Man was granted in Sovereignty by King Henry the 4th, and that the Sovereign rights continued until the 5th year of his present Majesty; and it further recites, that the Act of the 12th of George the First, chap. 28, provided for the purchase of these Sovereign rights. But this

* Original of the Motto.—Guillaume Premier, Roi de Prusse, ne pardonna jamais, sur l'article de ses finances, ni négligence ni infidélité. Un de ses receveurs, établi à Königsberg, ayant, dans sa caisse, une somme considérable, sans destination ni emploi actuel, en tira dix mille écus, dont il avoit besoin pour ses affaires personnelles; il remplaça cet argent par un billet, où il déclaroit le devoir, et annonçoit qu'il le remplaceroit dans un délai très-court. Cet homme fort, estimé d'ailleurs, étoit riche en biens fonds. Guillaume arrive à l'improviste dans cette capitale, visite cette caisse dans le jour, voit le billet, constate le vide, et fait pendre le receveur comme dépositaire infidèle.—THIEBAULT: *Mes souvenirs de vingt ans à Berlin.* Tom. II. page 11.

[66]

" grant to Sir John Stanley, and the said
" Act do not in point of fact convey, or
" confirm, or provide for the purchase of
" Sovereign rights in the Isle of Man; and
" it was not denied in the course of debate
" that the legislature of England had unin-
" terruptedly legislated for internal pur-
" poses within the said Island.—2d. The
" preamble further recites, that by a certain
" deed of restriction duly executed by Char-
" lotte, Duchess Dowager of Athol, John,
" Duke of Athol, became entitled to the
" rights reserved to his family in the Isle of
" Man, and hath ever since continued to
" enjoy the same. But this deed when pro-
" duced in evidence, purports only to in-
" tend to convey—" the rents, profits, and
" duties of every kind payable now forth
" and from the Isle of Man;" and does not
" convey any of the other rights reserved:
" and it appears from evidence that the
" Duchess Dowager of Athol was Lady of
" the Island at the time of passing the Act of
" the 5th year of his present Majesty, and
" has continued to exercise part of the
" rights reserved to her by that law ever
" since the Act of Restriction, 1774.—
" 3d. The preamble further recites, that
" there were circumstances attending the
" resignation of these rights, which make it
" just and reasonable that a further compen-
" sation should be given, and that the du-
" ties of customs of the Island belonged to
" the family of the Duke of Athol, and that
" a compensation should be given for them
" to be regulated by their produce. But of
" these circumstances no evidence was
" given, nor was it proved to us that the du-
" ties in question did so belong, nor was
" any reason whatsoever urged in the de-
" bate to induce us to think that the com-
" pensation (if any was to be made) should
" be regulated by their produce.—2dly.
" Because the reports made at various times
" down to the present moment, by the law
" officers of the Crown, on the subject of
" the claim for further compensation in this
C

“ matter, were sanctioned and confirmed in
 “ the debate by the first legal authorities;
 “ and did satisfy us that we are well ground-
 “ ed in our opinion, that sufficient grounds
 “ have not been produced in proof that the
 “ compensation given by the Act of the 5th
 “ year of his present Majesty, chap. 26,
 “ was inadequate. — 3dly. Because the
 “ vague and loose manner in which the evi-
 “ dence has been conducted of the nature
 “ and extent of the supposed injury, or of
 “ the proposed compensation, or of the
 “ claim of the Duke of Athol, to be consid-
 “ ered as the party to whom that compen-
 “ sation should be granted, forms an addi-
 “ tional ground for the jealousy which we
 “ entertain on the danger of establishing
 “ this precedent for opening for re-consider-
 “ ation; and at a remote period, contracts
 “ between the public and individuals. —
 “ 4thly. Because the House having thought
 “ proper to reject an amendment proposed
 “ in the last clause for the purpose of sup-
 “ plying words evidently omitted by mis-
 “ take; the Act as it now stands enacts a
 “ very questionable process, and imposes
 “ severe penalties on “ the officers of the re-
 “ ceipt of his Majesty’s Exchequer, who
 “ shall refuse or neglect to pay the said an-
 “ nuity, or yearly rent, or sum, or any
 “ part thereof, according to the true in-
 “ tent and meaning of this Act, or to do
 “ any Act necessary to enable the said John,
 “ Duke of Athol, and the heirs general of
 “ the 7th Earl of Derby. — But, inasmuch
 “ as the words proposed to be here added,
 “ viz. “ to receive the same,” were injected,
 “ this part of the Act is absolutely unintelli-
 “ gible, and was admitted by every lord who
 “ spoke in the debate to be inexplicable and
 “ of no effect. — (Signed) NORFOLK, E. M.
 “ — WILLIAM — NUGENT BUCKING-
 “ HAM. — CARYSFORT. — This bill has
 “ passed both Houses of Parliament upon a
 “ recommendation of a Committee of the King’s
 “ Privy Council, which committee consisted
 “ of Lord Melville, his nephew Mr. William
 “ Dundas, and two others, the petitions of the
 “ Duke having, on former occasions been re-
 “ ferred to the law-officers of the Crown! By
 “ the bill, a grant in perpetuity, estimated at
 “ 3,300l. a year, out of the public purse, is
 “ made to the Athol family; and, therefore,
 “ it is worth nearly a hundred thousand pounds.
 “ This grant was opposed by the Lord Chan-
 “ cellor of England and by the Lord Chief
 “ Justice, in their places in the House of
 “ Lords. It had formerly been resisted by
 “ Lord Chancellor Thurlow when Attorney
 “ General; it was opposed, in official reports,
 “ by the present Attorney General, Mr. Per-

cival; by the then Solicitor General, Sir
 Thomas (now Mr. Baron) Sutton; by Sir
 William Grant, now Master of the Rolls,
 and late first commissioner for inquiry into
 the claims of the Duke of Athol; by the
 late Lord Chancellor Rosslyn when Attorney
 General; by Mr. Attorney General Wallace;
 by Chief Justice Sir James Mansfield, when
 Solicitor General. In opposition to all this,
 however (adds the writer whose statement I
 have been borrowing), truth obliges us to
 acknowledge, that the purity and propriety
 of the measure has been frequently and offi-
 cially urged by Mr. Dundas, now Lord Mel-
 ville; and, that it has been defended on the
 same grounds, by Lord Glenbervie, Lord de
 Blaquiere, Mr. Huskisson, Mr. Charles
 Long, Mr. Canning, the Heaven-born Mi-
 nister, and Old George Rose. — The Duke
 of Athol’s grant is, however, a trifle in com-
 parison to the amount of the *new grants of*
the whole year, which is more, I think, than
six times greater than that of the new grants
 of any year while Mr. Addington was mi-
 nister. I do not speak positively, not having
 all the papers at hand; but, in my next, I
 propose to publish a list of the grants made
 since Mr. Pitt and his worthy colleague, Lord
 Melville, returned to power, in May, 1804.
 I shall exhibit *names* as well as dates and
 sums; for, it is now become absolutely ne-
 cessary for the people to see what becomes
 of the money that is collected from them. —
 In the mean while, I beg leave to refer the
 reader to a letter of my intelligent and valuable
 correspondent, VERAX, which letter will be
 found in a subsequent page of this sheet. It
 is well worthy of the attention of the person
 to whom it is addressed; for, it is quite use-
 less to punish delinquents, if you suffer others
 to continue in delinquency. — The finan-
 cial statements, laid before Parliament, are
 not calculated to enable the members to
 know *how* the public money is *disposed of*;
 and, indeed, that they are perfectly nugatory
 as to that purpose, what other proof need
 we, than that which has been exhibited to
 the country in the sixteen years uninterrupt-
 ed misapplication of the naval money by
 Lord Melville and Mr. Trotter; by the sums
 taken out by Lord Melville and expended in
 a way which he boldly says no one shall
 make him discover; by the sums lent to
 Boyd and Benfield, without interest, and re-
 turned again, no one can tell *how*, or *when*.
 Here are proofs more than sufficient of the
 truth of my correspondent’s assertion, to
 wit, that the accounts as now submitted to
 parliament are useless for any purpose of
 checking the minister in his disposal of the
 public money. — But, I must beseech the

reader to suspend his judgment till next week; and, then, I trust, I shall be able to show, in a pretty striking light, that it was not in mere car and catamaran projects, that Mr. Pitt and Lord Melville were engaged last summer. The reader will see, too, something to convince him, that Lord Auckland's attention to the financial interests of the nation does not make him forget his own interests. In short, a scene very striking, and deeply interesting to the people will be exhibited; and, after the exhibition, let those who are still willing to support Mr. Pitt grumble as long as they please about taxes; let them groan; the only subject for sorrow will be, that he does not actually squeeze them to death.

FINANCE RESOLUTIONS.—On Thursday last, the 12th instant, Mr. Johnstone brought forward his resolutions on the subject of *finance*.—The reader will recollect, that Mr. Tierney used annually to submit a string of these resolutions to the House; which resolutions it was the custom for the minister to supplant by a string of his own, giving a representation more favourable of the resources of the country. Both strings were annually entered in the votes of the House, and thus were sent on their journey to posterity, bearing with them that precious deposit, the fame of their respective authors! Mr. Johnstone, captivated, apparently, with this easy way of securing immortality, seized upon the office last year; Mr. Tierney having filled himself and dropped off the year before.—There was, however, something curious, if not bordering upon the ridiculous, in the bringing forward of the resolutions this year. Notice of Mr. Johnstone's intention was given about six weeks ago; and, it will be recollected, (see Vol. VII. p. 900) that Mr. Pitt, in the debate upon Mr. Grey's motion, intimated, that when the resolutions should be brought forward, he should take an opportunity of showing how nourishing the state of the public resources were. The actual production of the resolutions was postponed from time to time, until the day above-mentioned, when Mr. Johnstone rising, with perfect seriousness, introduced them with the observation, that, as he understood no very material objection would be made to them, he should not detain the House by any exposition of either the principles or the detail, upon which he had proceeded in the framing of them; an observation the necessity of which was by no means apparent, seeing that, of the six hundred and fifty-eight members, there were only nine, including the Speaker, to listen to him! Mr. Pitt, not thinking proper to

act himself before such an audience, set up Mr. Huskisson (just as the reader has frequently seen, upon occasions not very dissimilar, *out of doors*), while the great man himself sat by; examined the documents, and gave his prescriptions.—There was little of prescription to give, however; for, Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Huskisson appeared to have come to a previous understanding; the matter was, therefore, very speedily settled; the Speaker put the question upon each resolution; the “unanimity,” as in the Critic, “was wonderful.” The **AYES** had it every time, without a single dissenting voice; and thus closed the session as to the subject of finance. *We*, however, who have another long and dreary year of taxes, to toil through, may, and, doubtless, we shall, as opportunity serves, return to this important subject; and, I think, we shall discover, that the resolutions of Mr. Johnstone, even with the great Mr. Huskisson's emendations, are very little calculated to enable us to judge of the real state of our financial concerns, though, if intended to amuse the city vulgar, they may not prove entirely useless.—I entertain great respect for Mr. Johnstone. On several occasions he has eminently distinguished himself as a member of parliament, mindful of his great duty, a scrupulous watchfulness over the pecuniary interests of the people; and, I remember with particular satisfaction, his conduct during the debate upon Mr. Creevy's motion relative to Mr. Fordyce, which Mr. Fordyce has, by-the-bye, too long escaped the notice of my readers. But, in proportion as I respect Mr. Johnstone's talents and character, I lament, and must lament, to see him a sort of co-operator with Mr. Huskisson in any thing, and especially in the framing and bringing forward of resolutions, such as those of which I have been speaking.

SWEDEN AND PRUSSIA.—The backwardness which, all at once, became apparent, in the conduct of Sweden, about five months ago, the reader will now find pretty satisfactorily accounted for, in the State Paper, inserted in the foregoing sheet, p. 47. Sweden would have taken our money; but, Prussia would not let her. Never was there a clearer or a shorter case! The vigour of Lord Harrowby and Mr. Pitt had, we now see, well high succeeded in rousing the gallant young monarch to the acceptance of a subsidy, before, as it is now evident, there was the least reason to hope, that it would be of any use to us, or to any body else.—Lord Harrowby is now come back to us again; not in the same office, it is true;

but in *some office*, no matter what one, we are now sure to have the benefit of his talents, and of that industry which shone forth so conspicuously during the sixteen months that he was "taking steps" to correct the monstrous abuses in the office of Treasurer of the Navy, but which abuses he, at last, left as he found them.—In matters relating to foreign affairs, however, his Lordship is more expeditious, as we most sensibly have felt, and shall yet feel, in the consequences of the *war with Spain*; which war, and especially our manner of beginning it, is one of the principal causes of the coolness, not to say contempt, with which all our overtures are listened to upon the Continent; and, though it is possible that it had no share in producing the Prussian State Paper, above referred to, yet, let it be remembered, that, at the time of the capture of the Spanish Frigates, *we said* that such conduct in foreign courts, with respect to this country, would be amongst the consequences of that capture.

THE COMBINED FLEETS, which are generally thought to be on their way to Europe, some persons have supposed, will endeavour to take *Halifax*, in Nova Scotia. This they would, I think, find it very difficult to accomplish. Halifax is tolerably well fortified. A fleet cannot enter till some of the works have been taken; and, to take any of the works there, leaving the fleet, in the mean while, exposed to an attack from the sea, is an enterprize not to be reasonably expected from the commanders, who, with sixteen sail of the line, have fled from Nelson with ten sail of that description. A more probable conjecture is, that, if the combined fleets are not making for Europe, they are gone to the United States of America; in which case, they will, in all likelihood, anchor in the Bay of Chesapeake. Such a course of proceeding would give us most serious annoyance, and would, at the same time, produce very little, if any, inconvenience to the enemy, whose fleets would lie snugly sheltered from the elements as well as from our cannon, while ours, which we must keep constantly to watch them, would be exposed to the elements, and that, too, upon a most dangerous coast. Provisions, repairs, and every thing they could want to keep their ships in good condition, and ready for sea, the enemy would find either in the harbour of New York or in the Chesapeake. We should obtain the same things, though upon worse terms, because we must keep at sea, or nearly so; but, we want few, or none, of these things; and, our enemy's obtaining them is a dead

loss to us. While there is a strong fleet of the enemy in any of the harbours of the United States, we can never be safe without one in the West Indies able to cope with them; and, this force we ought to keep constantly there, besides having a considerable force upon the coast of America. Halifax may be in little or no danger; but, while there is a strong French naval force in the United States, Bermuda, Newfoundland, the Bahamas, and all our possessions in the Atlantic, to the north of Cuba, must be in continual danger, and, of course, in continual alarm. For these reasons, I should much rather hear of the combined fleets having safely arrived at Cadiz, or at Toulon, than in any of the ports or bays of the United States.

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST LORD MELVILLE. (continued from Vol. VII. p. 989).—An impeachment of Lord Melville having been resolved upon, and the articles thereof (which shall be inserted in the next sheet) having been proposed to, and adopted by, the House of Commons, it was my intention, as expressed at the time when the criminal prosecution had been resolved on, to have abstained from all further comment upon the conduct of the person accused; but, as was explicitly stated in the passage here referred to (Vol. VII. p. 928.), this forbearance was conditional, and the condition was as follows: "*Here, then, for the present, we must leave him; but, not his supporters, if they still appear in print. All along they have been the aggressors. Let us hope, that they will now, at last, learn discretion. If, however, they should continue to make publications in justification of the conduct of Lord Melville, it may not be improper to apprise them of my determination of commenting upon those publications, whatever be the title under which they shall appear.*"—Since the publication of this passage, there has appeared, a pamphlet, entitled a Speech of Lord Melville on the 11th of June, 1805, in the House of Commons. This pamphlet contains a daring defiance of the law, and some most unjust insinuations against the conduct of all those, whether in or out of parliament, who have expressed a disapprobation of Lord Melville's and Mr. Trotter's conduct. That it is indecent and audacious, in the extreme, thus to attempt to brow beat the injured nation, I think few persons, the writer and his accomplices excepted, will deny; and, I am persuaded, that it will appear perfectly proper, publicly and in print, to comment upon the publication in question, as often as it



shall appear necessary to counteract the effects, which it evidently is intended to produce.—Besides this pamphlet, we daily see, in the news-papers devoted to the Pitt and Melville faction, paragraphs reviving, and re-stating, with more confidence than ever, the several facts and arguments heretofore brought forward by the advocates of Lord Melville, and disproved or refuted by their opponents. A specimen of this presents itself in the news-paper now before me, the *STW* of the 15th instant, as follows:

"The Members who have taken a leading part in the Prosecution of Lord Melville, have particularly excited the attention of mankind, and have an awful responsibility attached to their names. It is generally admitted, that nothing was lost to the public in the transaction referred to, and that public payments were not a moment delayed." Two assertions, which, over and over again, have been proved to be false, and which no man in the country, except he be notoriously of the Pitt and Melville faction, has ever affected to regard as true. To the readers of the *Register*, I think, I may safely appeal for judgment upon the impudent hireling, who is now siding forth by stealth assertions like those here particularly cited. I think, they will have been thoroughly convinced, that, in consequence of Lord Melville's having violated the law, the public has lost immense sums of money, and that public payments have been delayed in numerous instances and to the great disgrace as well as injury of the public.—But, suppose, for a moment, that these assertions of the Pitt and Melville writer were as true as they are false; suppose, for argument's sake, that the public had sustained no actual pecuniary loss, and that all the payments to individuals had been as duly made, as if no violation of the law had ever been committed by Lord Melville; what then? Has not this supposition been made before? And have not the public, have not the parliament, decided, that, whether there were loss or not, whether the payments were retarded or not, the violation of the law still continued the same, and, that, whether by accommodating members of parliament or others, the violation might be rendered full as injurious, and even more injurious, to the country, than if it had produced an actual deficit in the naval money! How a King of Prussia would have thought upon this subject may be seen from the passage which I have chosen as a motto to this sheet. God forbid that any British subject, in whatever state of life, should be exposed to the hasty, and, perhaps, vindic-

tive decisions of a despot, whether civil or military; but, the writer in the *SUN*, above quoted, may, from the anecdote related by M. Theibault, perceive, that crimes have not, in other countries any more than in this, always been weighed against pounds shillings and pence, than which, indeed, nothing can be more degrading to the people amongst whom such a principle prevails, or can, for a moment, be listened to.—I quit this subject with a promise again to return to it, for the purpose of refuting the impudent statements in the pamphlet entitled, "*Lord Melville's Speech*;" but, as there will be quite time enough for this previous to the trial, I shall, probably, defer it for some weeks, unless the absence of the parliament should so far embolden the Pitt and Melville news-papers, as to produce a repetition of those scandalous efforts, which, in the months of March, April, and May, they made to deceive the public. As yet, like the Devil, "squat at the ear of Eve," they are merely whispering their falsehoods; stealing them out upon the people. They deal them forth, at present, a sentence at a time, and that so judiciously placed as not to discover the design. After a while these sentences will swell into paragraphs; whence we shall be led into letters "from intelligent correspondents," and, when the trial is near at hand, we shall see the editors themselves become the open and avowed champions of the accused. Against these arts, to give effect to which nothing will be spared, every part of the public, and particularly public writers, should be upon their guard. The Pitt and Dundas ministry have now entered upon a campaign much more important to them than the last: it is not cars and catamarans that they now intend to employ. The Cinque Port volunteers will, I imagine, be left to drill themselves. Let us, therefore, lay constantly upon our arms. Unless we persevere, we have done nothing.

PARTIES. (Continued from p. 64.)—In resuming this subject, we must again refer to the prints of the *Pitts* and *Addingtons* respectively. There are four points upon which the writers of these factions are at issue. 1. *The grounds of resignation of Lord Sidmouth and his friends.* The Pitt and Melville faction insist, that the real grounds were, that the Addingtons wanted more power and much more emolument than the Pitt and Melville part of the ministry were disposed to let them have; while the Addingtons assert, the grounds of their resignation to have been, a conviction that it was contrary to the principles of honour and honesty to continue part of a ministry, who

had made, and who were still making, such unwarrantable efforts to screen Lord Melville.—2. *The time and manner of Lord Sidmouth's announcing the intention of himself and his friends to resign.* Upon this point, as well as upon the others, we must patiently hear what they themselves say, paying particular attention to, and endeavouring to ascertain, the fact, of Lord Sidmouth's having caused his intention to be signified to the Prince, before he signified it either to the King or to Mr. Pitt! This is a very interesting circumstance; and I beg the reader to bear it in his mind.—3. *The effect, with regard to Lord Sidmouth, which the resignation has produced in the mind of His Majesty.* The Pitt and Melville faction, particularly the UPSTART, aver, that the King has absolutely cast off the Addingtons. That their resignation gave him no pain whatever; but, on the contrary, that he was exceedingly glad to get rid of them. The Addingtons say they are still the favourites at court; that His Majesty received the news of their resignation with the deepest sorrow; and there is, in one of the paragraphs upon the subject, something very much like a hint, that, rather than absolutely break the heart of their Sovereign, they would return to the receipt of the salaries, which, I think it will be allowed, is an effort of loyalty not too great to be expected from them.—4. *Whether there can be a junction of the Addingtons and the Opposition; or of the Pitt and Melville faction and the Opposition.* The Addington writers contend, that it is quite impossible, that the Opposition can touch the Pitts and Melvilles; and the Pitt and Melville writers contend, in terms no less unqualified, that no junction can take place between the Opposition and the Addingtons, appearing, as may be seen from the passage quoted in p. 63, particularly to allude to the aversion, to such a junction, supposed to be entertained by Lord Grenville.—Having thus stated the points, upon which the advocates of the two factions are at issue, let us now hear them in their own words, beginning with the UPSTART's paper, the ORACLE, of the 2d and 3d instant. The first question is rather introductory; but, it is very necessary to have upon record, especially when the reader recollects that it comes directly from the venomous lips of the UPSTART, whose spite crawling the public have heard, and will yet again hear of.—“From this paragraph (having quoted a paragraph from the Morning Chronicle contradicting the report of Mr. Fox's having declared that he would take no office under government) “from

“this paragraph, which came from the
“highest opposition authority, it is evident,
“that Mr. Fox's patience began to be ex-
“hausted. His pride at last was aroused,
“when he found no return of compliment,
“no language of equal conciliation, no en-
“couragement, by an approximation of
“ideas, from Mr. Pitt. The latter was
“sufficiently polite as a gentleman; but, as
“a politician, he pretended not to under-
“stand the broad hints which were thrown
“out to him from day to day. Mr. Fox
“then qualified or moderated his ambition,
“by saying that he would not personally
“stand in the way of any arrangement for
“an administration including all the great
“men of the country. This was wise and
“politic on the part of Mr. Fox. He well
“knew that if his friends ever got into pow-
“er, they would soon succeed in obtaining
“for him a leading department of the state.
“The minister, although unfortunately de-
“prived of the great abilities of Lord Mel-
“ville, and although an able coadjutor might
“perhaps have been acceptable, yet was
“proof against the political courtship, and
“also the political coquetry, of Mr. Fox,
“who had declared that no personal consi-
“deration on his part should preclude any
“arrangement for an administration on an
“enlarged scale.—The powers of Lord
“Sidmouth are so far inferior to Mr. Pitt,
“and the confidence which the latter has
“reposed in his new colleagues has so much
“flattered them, and confirmed their friend-
“ship for him, that they very wisely prefer
“the one to the other, whether viewed as
“a private individual, or as a public cha-
“racter. But who gave Lord Sidmouth
“the power which elevated him to his pre-
“sent greatness? Mr. Pitt. Who recom-
“mended and supported him at the com-
“mencement of his administration, in lan-
“guage too strong for political foresight,
“but very honourable on principles of
“friendship? Mr. Pitt. Who, in fact, in-
“troduced him into life, and raised him
“from obscurity to the chair of the House
“of Commons, consequently made him at
“once the first commoner in England? Mr.
“Pitt. It was, therefore, very fair to con-
“clude, that any defection from such a
“leader and such a friend could not be
“justified on principles of honour. If the
“one-half of the rumours be warranted
“even by the shadow of truth, Lord Sid-
“mouth's conduct on the memorable occa-
“sion was what the most delicate men
“would term a deviation from candour and
“plain dealing. We by no means think,
“that, when a man becomes a public cha-

character, and is very tenacious of that character with the public, he ought to sacrifice it entirely at the shrine of friendship, whether right or wrong. It is attainable in every man to obtain, by good and honourable actions, the continuance of public partiality. True fame is enviable, especially when supported by transcendent talents. But when it flourishes only by the kind aid of friendship—when it is endangered by a serious difference—when it depends upon temporary favouritism—the celebrity which a man borrows from such adventitious circumstances renders his fall more fatal in its consequences. Such a man is Lord Sidmouth. Unless following in the train of Mr. Pitt—unless attached to the tail of some great man—unless, by the jealousies and distractions of parties, suffered for a time to bask in the sun-shine of fortune—Lord Sidmouth could never have led and governed the councils of the state. Take away that by which he is propped and upheld, and his fall is inevitable. Among the eminent debaters in Parliament, he may be likened to what grammarians term a noun adjective, which cannot stand in a sentence without a substantive. He may have some strong claims on the partiality of many members of the present House of Commons, as they were returned during his administration; but that influence will rapidly diminish as the improbability of his return to power increases. From the expiring sessions may therefore be dated the downfall of the Addingtonian party.—On the general interest and connexions of a vast empire, extended and extending far beyond the most sanguine ideas of our ancestors, the world is naturally attracted by the man whose efforts have been so serviceable in the government of the whole. That man is William Pitt. His activity has explored new sources of commerce, his genius discovered new plans of finance. All have proved highly beneficial to his country. While he has suggested and carried into effect these improvements for our national interest and aggrandisement, he has also been most forward in debate on subjects of the greatest importance. He has at the same time been eagerly solicitous for the interest and elevation of those friends who possessed talents worthy of cultivation for the highest departments of the state. His INFLEXIBLE VIRTUE has put malignity to defiance; his transcendent talents have laid prostrate before him the genius of envy and de-

traction. On a late occasion HIS PURITY OF CHARACTER became more and more conspicuous, shining with a brilliancy equal to the expectations and wishes of his warmest admirers. If he has less of the condescending and social qualities which familiarize and endear some men to society, it may be attributed to his abstraction from common life, his selection of the grand and magnificent subjects fit for the exercise of his great and comprehensive genius. Deserted, from the incentives of ambition, by some of his best friends, harassed by a powerful combination bent on his subjugation or overthrow, he has had greater difficulties to remove, greater dangers to encounter, than any minister, perhaps, during the last hundred years. Notwithstanding the distractions and prejudices of parties, Mr. Pitt remains respected by all; and he is too proud in principle, and too virtuous in conduct, to be alarmed by the clamour of faction. If he find the formation of a ministry, on an enlarged and a liberal scale, opposed by insurmountable obstacles and PERSONAL OBJECTIONS in which HE HAS NO PART, he will CONTINUE TO DISCHARGE HIS DUTY TO HIS KING AND COUNTRY with that fidelity and honour which have so often gained him the most flattering and most enviable approbation." That is to say, I suppose, that he will continue to act as he did in conjunction with Mr. Dundas; that he will continue to act as he did in the case of the loan to Boyd and Benfield; and as he has more recently done in the cases of the Duke of Athol and Lord Melville.—The next quotation, following the dates, is from the ORACLE of the 10th instant.—"While Lord Sidmouth adhered to Mr. Pitt, there was some cause of their encouragement—some cheering expectations of future distinctions, if not of greatness—some well-grounded reasons for entertaining the pleasing and consolatory idea of dividing with their political creator the charms of power and the joys of aggrandisement. But such a participation would not satisfy the inordinate ambition of Lord Sidmouth. Like Buonaparte on the Continent, aiming at universal empire, Lord Sidmouth aspired to the uncontrolled and exclusive direction of the British government. Without the great ability of Cardinal Wolsey, he possessed while in the cabinet all the insatiable desires of that crafty statesman. It is curious to contemplate the great thoughts of little men. In idea, Lord Sidmouth had

“ already anticipated his reinstatement of
 “ office. In his mind's eye he commanded
 “ both Indies, and at his feet were the des-
 “ tinies of Europe. But all his ambitious
 “ projects were the delusions of the mo-
 “ ment—they resembled so many glow-
 “ worms which deceive and betray the be-
 “ nighted traveller. Lord Sidmouth, in
 “ wandering from Mr. Pitt, lost the right
 “ way, and, to all human appearance, he
 “ will never again find it. That Sun which
 “ illuminated his darkness now frowns upon
 “ his best prospects, and he is doomed to
 “ be obscured by the force of true genius
 “ and superior public worth.—Lord Sid-
 “ mouth can never forgive Mr. Pitt for ex-
 “ posing the culpable negligence, the alarm-
 “ ing deficiency, of his administration.—
 “ To what party are Lord Sidmouth's
 “ friends now to look for co-operation and
 “ support? To the Old Opposition? IM-
 “ POSSIBLE. Mr. Fox has some shrewd
 “ suspicions that to Lord Sidmouth may be
 “ principally attributed his personal exclu-
 “ sion from office in the formation of a new
 “ administration!!! It is admitted by those
 “ who then knew the arcana of Mr. Pitt
 “ and his friends, that so far averse was Mr.
 “ Pitt to the system of personal exclusion
 “ against Mr. Fox, that HE in vain used his
 “ utmost endeavours to remove every obstacle
 “ against the admission of the latter into his
 “ Majesty's councils and government. From
 “ Mr. Fox and his party Lord Sidmouth
 “ can therefore expect no consolation, and
 “ certainly no coalition, although the very
 “ same men may cheer the Addingtons
 “ when in expectation of their votes or in-
 “ terest in Parliament.—To whom are the
 “ latter description then to look for en-
 “ couragement and support? To the New
 “ Coalition—to the Grenvilles? They have
 “ too much the pride of family, and too much
 “ the aristocracy of talents, TO STOOP
 “ TO SUCH BASE DEGREES OF GRA-
 “ TIFYING THEIR AMBITION.”

Reader, need I stop here to ask you, how
 “ base,” if these observations are just, must
 have been the man, who not only stooped
 to a coalition with the Addingtons, after
 having bestowed on them every mark of his
 contempt, but who actually solicited, nay,
 who humbly solicited, in a letter under his
 own hand, a coalition with the men, who
 are represented as too vile for any body else
 upon earth to touch?—The insinuation,
 too, respecting Mr. Pitt's desire to bring in
 Mr. Fox must not escape attention. Let it
 be remembered. I beg the reader to re-
 member it; and that it comes from the UP-
 START too.—We shall have to return to

all this again.—Extract from the *Cou-
 RIER of the 11th instant.* “ In these
 “ changes the public will add an increase of
 “ talents to the cabinet; although 10 or 12
 “ votes may waver in parliament, in con-
 “ sequence of Lord Sidmouth's retreat, yet
 “ the unanimity which will pervade our
 “ councils, without which vigour cannot
 “ exist, will repay tenfold such a loss. The
 “ want of unanimity in the cabinet has no
 “ doubt embarrassed government last win-
 “ ter. Unanimity in council is more ne-
 “ cessary to the conduct of the affairs of a
 “ country than the collection of numerous
 “ but discordant parties. *We are in hopes*
 “ *that some further arrangements will still*
 “ *take place to bring those together who are*
 “ *agreed on the great questions of our policy.*
 “ *Lord Grenville was yesterday with the*
 “ *King, and the Prince of Wales went in*
 “ *haste to Mr. Fox at St. Anne's Hill.* The
 “ state of our affairs, both at home and
 “ abroad, seems to inspire the country with
 “ fresh confidence!!!” —All that is necessary
 to be said here, is, that what is said about
 Lord Grenville's being with the King is to-
 tally false.—Exactly the same statement
 was, however, made in the *Morning Post*
 of the same day; and, these things we must
 not forget; because, it will not be long be-
 fore we shall hear these same papers repre-
 senting the whole of the opposition as being
 quite unworthy of the confidence either of
 King or people.—We now come to a
 most curious statement in the *Sun of the*
 11th instant. “ As much misrepresentation
 “ has prevailed with respect to the time and
 “ the manner of Lord Sidmouth's resigna-
 “ tion, we request the public attention to
 “ the following statements, which the
 “ Times will scarcely venture to contradict:
 “ Lord Sidmouth, as is well known, had a
 “ long interview with Mr. Pitt, in Down-
 “ ing-street, on Thursday last. They af-
 “ terwards both attended a council. Nei-
 “ ther Mr. Pitt, nor his Royal Master, un-
 “ derstood, at any period of that day, that
 “ Lord Sidmouth had determined upon a re-
 “ signation. THE FIRST THAT MR.
 “ PITT HEARD OF IT, was through
 “ those to whom an illustrious personage
 “ had communicated (at Mrs. Egerton's
 “ masquerade) the intelligence, which he
 “ had received from Mr. Sheridan. The
 “ Times will tell us no doubt, whether it
 “ was at Lord Sidmouth's desire that his
 “ situation was made known in the particu-
 “ lar quarter to which we have alluded. As
 “ for the RELUCTANCE manifested in
 “ the acceptance of the resignation, &c. &c.
 “ we would advise the Addingtons to say no

"more about it. We can jog their memories with a few facts which will, we are sure, convince them of the necessity of holding their tongues on this subject. Some of them, perhaps, may have seen **SOME LETTERS** from great persons lately, much about the time of Lord Bham's appointment to the Admiralty; but we shall wait to see how they behave."—The answer which the *Times* made to this will be seen in the foregoing sheet, p. 63 and 64. It was, however, silent upon the last mentioned delicate points.

—The *SUN* of the 15th instant returned to the charge in the following manner.—

"We had asserted, that Mr. Pitt did not understand, from his conversation with Lord Sidmouth, on Thursday se'nnight, the intention of the latter to resign. This fact is contradicted by the *Times*. We will give credit to them for the truth of their assertion, that Lord Sidmouth's conversation with Mr. Pitt was intended to convey to the Premier his lordship's determination to resign. Upon such a point, the assertion of the *Times* is, next to that of his lordship, the best evidence that can be produced. The public will judge whether the *Times* or the *Sun* be more likely to convey a correct idea of the impression made, by any conversation, upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We need scarcely add, that we adhere to our former statements. It is indeed only in that one point to which we have alluded that we are contradicted by the *Addingtonian* writers. They admit, by implication, that their leader, who is stated to have quitted office upon the purest and broadest public principles, and who is held up as "the sole and central point at which every virtuous Englishman should rally," that this model of independence, purity, and disinterestedness, had no sooner quitted one party, and lost the favour and confidence of "the powers that be," than he hastened to throw himself into the arms of another, and to join with it in worshipping "the rising sun." It is said that we have been altogether silent upon the motive of Lord Sidmouth's resignation. This is not correct; we have traced it to his love of power, unaccompanied by any great or generous feelings—and, certainly, the pompous and desultory exposition of his lordship's motives (in a style characteristic of his party), which appeared in the *Times* of Friday, will not induce us to retract our opinion. Upon this manifesto we shall forbear to remark, until its authors shall condescend to alight from their prancing Pegasus, and conduct

us, at a jog-trot, to a knowledge of some of the facts of their case. We are encouraged in the hope that the *Addingtons* will take our hint upon this occasion, by the attention which they have paid to our friendly advice about the *Royal reluctance* to accept the resignation; upon which resignation we again congratulate the country, as an event that frees the wheels of government from their heaviest clog.—The *Addingtons* have the last word; and thus they speak in the *Times* of the 16th instant.—"Last night the whole Melville-kennel opened against us, but we will not be driven from our purpose. The country and posterity have a right to truth, and the committees of falsehood, rancour, and disappointment, are not select enough to overwhelm or confuse it. For the joint report of Ex-Jacobins, the Ultra-Ministerial, and the Melville Papers, we entertain a contempt that we can express without indecorum. Let them rail; but they cannot rail the seal from off the bond. What end can be answered by all their calumny, misrepresentation, and poison, as long as Lord Melville goes to trial by the disinterested fortitude of Lord Sidmouth and his friends, which has enabled Mr. Whitbread and his virtuous cause to triumph? What object do they propose to themselves by the already-refuted lie of the day, while the self-devotedness of an upright statesman sends corruption to the tribunals? Do they think that the country does not feel, in its remotest corners, the proud and almost lost conviction that there could exist a minister superior to the charms of power and of office, and resolute to obtain justice for his country at the expense of importance, emolument, dignity, and the beloved presence of an affectionate master? Would they efface this sweet consolation from the public heart, that, in the cabinet itself, the laws and the interests of a generous people bending under the weight of their contributions, but free and loyal in their sacrifices, have found a friend and a powerful defender?"—Here I shall, for the present, take leave of the subject, begging the reader to go slowly and carefully over all these extracts; for howmuch soever he may despise some of the prints from which they are taken, he may be assured, that they are the funnels, through which the factions, respectively, speak.

TO SAMUEL WHITBREAD, ESQ. M. P.
ON THE REFORM OF FINANCIAL ABUSES.
LETTER IX.

SIR,—There is, I feel, no occasion to

make any apology for addressing you on the subject of the naval accounts; or to attempt to render your fitness to obtain the reform of them, more obvious to those who may happen to read this letter, than it already is. As you have undertaken, and hitherto with so much success, to bring to justice the transgressors of the laws for securing the correct appropriation of the naval supplies, I most sincerely hope that you will persevere in your exertions, until you enforce the adoption of such regulations in regard to the accounting for all naval money, that it may be impossible for any future Treasurer of the Navy to conceal from the public any part of his proceedings connected with the payment of naval expenses. I shall, I trust, be able to point out to you the necessity of an entire alteration of the existing regulations, that relate to the navy accounts, and to prove, that so long as they are continued, the public must remain in ignorance of the uses made by the treasurer of their money. The only account now laid before parliament is, "An Account, shewing the amount of monies received from his Majesty's Exchequer for naval services, between 5th Jan. and the 5th Jan. ; distinguishing the services to which the same is applied." This account, is made up at the Navy Office, and signed by the Commissioners of the Navy; and it forms the only source of information upon the important and extensive subject of the navy expenditure. In a former letter I have hazarded a conjecture, that the whole of this account was a mere delusion; and, that under the semblance of shewing what the nation paid for its navy, it was in fact, an account only of what money was applied at the Bank for the purpose of being paid for it; but which occurrence might or might not take place, just as it suited the pleasure of the Treasurer or Paymaster. The circumstances on which I founded this conjecture were, 1st. That the Treasurer of the Navy makes all naval payments, and not the Commissioners of the Navy; and, 2d. That the Commissioners of the Navy are said, in the language of the Exchequer, to apply money to naval services by paying it into the Bank on account of the Treasurer of the Navy. Though these facts appear sufficiently to bear out the inference that has been deduced from them, there existed in my mind so great a reluctance to believe, that a delusion so monstrous could have been attempted to be practised upon the nation, that I certainly was induced to hazard only a conjecture, and that with great diffidence. But, since I did so, I have found upon a reperusal of the title of the account,

ample grounds for being fully convinced of the accuracy of my first opinion concerning it. The account is, of all the money received from the Exchequer, and applied to naval services by the Commissioners of the Navy. Now, Sir, if it should appear, that in the account of every year the sum applied is exactly the sum received, and that there never has been any balance in the hands of the Commissioners of the Navy, is it not obvious that the receipt from the Exchequer is one and the same identical operation as the application of the money so received to naval services? That is, that the whole operation is nothing more or less than the payment of so much money by the Exchequer into the Bank on account of the Treasurer of the Navy? If, Sir, you will examine the public accounts for some years back, you will find the fact to be, that there never is any difference between the sum received from the Exchequer, and the sum applied; and, therefore, I conceive, that I am fully borne out in my conclusion, that the account is an account of money applied to be paid, and not of money actually paid; and, further, therefore, that there exists no such thing amongst the annual accounts laid before parliament, AS AN ACCOUNT OF THE MONEY EXPENDED UPON THE NAVY. There is yet another circumstance that corroborates this conclusion, namely, the manner in which the account of the army expenditure is stated. This is styled "An Account of the monies paid by the Right Honourable the Paymaster General of his Majesty's Forces, from Dec. 25, to Dec. 24." According to the principle of the navy account, this account should be "An Account of money received from the Exchequer, and applied to military services," and it should be signed by the Secretary at War; for his office is similar as to the accounting for money to the Navy Office, and the office of Paymaster of the Forces is precisely similar to the office of Treasurer of the Navy. Why, therefore, all circumstances being duly considered, should the navy account be an account of money applied to naval services by the Navy Office, and the army account be an account of money actually paid by the Paymaster General? This question might be answered by saying, that it has been found more convenient to let the Commissioners of the Navy Office furnish the account of the navy expenditure, than to follow the example of the Paymaster General, and thus expose in each year the Treasurer's accounts to the public. But, whether or not this is the real cause of so delusive a method of stating an account of

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so great a proportion of our annual expenditure, it is now of little use to lose time in investigating. It is sufficient merely to observe, that, had the House of Commons required, that this account should have been an account of the Treasurer of the Navy, it is very probable, that the illegal practices which are at last come to light, could not have been concealed during the long period of sixteen years. But the point, Sir, to which I particularly wish to draw your attention, is the necessity, which is thus manifestly promulgated, of the interference of the House of Commons to secure for the future an honest account of the money received and paid by the Treasurer of the Navy, and to place the office of Treasurer of the Navy under such a control as shall render it impracticable for any one, who may hereafter fill it, to rob the public. And, here, Sir, let me leave my immediate subject, to observe how futile all legislative regulations are in respect to the public money, if due attention is not paid to the method to be adopted in accounting for it. It is now obvious, that the object of the law for preventing abuses in the office of Treasurer of the Navy, has been totally frustrated by the neglect of those who undertook the reformation of it, to lay down some efficient system of accounting for the money received by the treasurer; for, had he been obliged to present to parliament an annual account of all money received and paid by him, the balances which Mr. Trotter kept at Coutts's would have been easily discovered; or, rather, had such an account been required, it is to be presumed, that he would never have attempted to make an improper use of the public money. I am aware, Sir, in advancing these observations, that it may be replied to me, "The whole object of your plan is sufficiently provided for, by the law that obliges the Treasurer of the Navy, to pass his accounts before the commissioners for auditing the public accounts." To any one making use of such an argument, I should recommend it to read an act of this session for amending the act for regulating the office of Paymaster of the Forces; in this he will find, that no accounts of the Paymaster have been passed before the commissioners since 1783; and, also, to look into the public accounts of this year, by which he will find that Lord Melville's account is not yet settled; from which circumstances, I feel myself warranted in inferring, that the control of these commissioners under the present regulations is not efficient.—But to return to the subject. Having fully shewn that there is no such account required by parliament, as an account

of the money received and paid by the Treasurer of the Navy for naval services, I submit to your consideration the expediency of parliamentary inquiry into the existing system, of accounting before parliament for the navy expenditure; and, I further take the liberty of suggesting, that your very laudable exertions to promote the public interests cannot be attended with complete success, unless that species of control, which is to be obtained by well-regulated accounts, is fully and effectually secured by some new law upon the subject.—I have the honour to be, &c.—VERAX.—July 15, 1805.

ON THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

LETTER I.

SIR,—Should the British constitution be happy enough to maintain unimpaired its present shattered perfections, future generations who may live under its authority, will gratefully acknowledge your able struggle for their preservation. By awakening the political lethargy of men, by detecting the weakness of ministers unfit to rule, or to merit even personal respect; by discovering designs of those who through the glare of brilliant sophistry and unparalleled cunning, have wielded the rod of power to gratify private ambition and personal emoluments, you have revived the fading laurels of patriotism. Entertaining this opinion, I am induced, through your Register, with your permission, to offer to my countrymen some observations I have made, and some facts I have collected, on the conduct of a society which has often attracted your attention, I mean the celebrated Board of Agriculture, and Internal Improvement. I am the more induced to attempt this task from the extraordinary circumstance of an institution professing so much, having so feebly prosecuted the design, which its name imports, it was created to execute. It thence seems questionable, whether it has not been established for sinister purposes, or whether, somehow or other, it does not greatly want a proper efficiency to execute the mighty promises held forth in its high sounding appellation. It certainly is quite the character of the administration which gave it birth, to do any thing for support, to display the most barefaced want of discernment, and to propose undigested projects, however glaring the empiricism. The real state of the case, I will from indisputable facts endeavour to develop. However, that the great and dignified persons who rule over its concerns may not be too suddenly taken by surprise, and that I may render what I have to say on the subject as clear, and as perspicuous as possible, I propose to divide my observations

into three letters.—1st. This first shall contain my ideas of what might have been done by this Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement, with its income, and whether from the modes of proceeding they have adopted the objects which the name of the institution points out, have been or are likely to be accomplished.—2. I will in the second letter show that the Board of Agriculture since anno 1799, has been very improvident in carrying on both its public and domestic affairs. If it should appear that their proceedings have been a little tainted with Melvillean philosophy, they will no doubt, be able to justify themselves to the parliament who annually grants them 3000l. of the public money.—3. I will give a general view of the organization of the Board and its defects, the character and talents of its leading members, and the expectation the public have of the ends of the institution being accomplished, from their talents to conduct business. To prevent any alarm, no names will be mentioned. I hint this to prevent a monopoly of heartshorn and other volatile spirits.—To promote agriculture is certainly the first object, which the Board from its title ought to have in view. To accomplish this, it would be proper to lay down a plan, which might be consistent with its finances. Suppose the income 3000l. per annum, it would be right to take four subjects. As draining, inclosing, manuring, the course of crops, and to offer 120l. for the best essay on either of these subjects, and 80l. for the second best. When good essays on these subjects were obtained, propose four new subjects in a similar manner, and offer smaller premiums, as 40l. for the best observations and improvements on either of the four first essays they may procure. Five gold and five silver medals might be offered for miscellaneous subjects of secondary importance.—By this means agricultural knowledge would be kept in a continual state of accumulation. The collected knowledge could periodically be condensed and systematised, formed into part of a general code, and be gratuitously circulated among the most ingenious farmers in the kingdom.—The premiums for the first year would not exceed 800l., the publishing them in annual volumes would pay itself. The next year the addition of 160l. for the best observations, might be partly, if not wholly cleared, by the profits of publishing the first essays. Beyond the limits of such a plan an institution cannot go with an income of 3000l. per annum, and pay officers, house-rent and taxes. Such a plan presents to a man the prospect of a fair

remuneration, and the hope of acquiring fame. Without the idea of obtaining celebrity, a man has little stimulus to rouse him to the toil of literary exertion. Neither can practical information be expected, but from those who have obtained it by indefatigable industry, and it is unjust to expect they will have passed a laborious and useful life, should give up their knowledge to the public without an adequate reward.—The Board of Agriculture however, first formed the idea of circulating queries to obtain information for nothing. Then they projected the plan of surveying eighty districts in twelve months, which at the moderate rate of 30l. each with the annual incidental charges, would have swallowed up more than their first year's income. The projects and printing of the next year were to amount to about 6000l., and they receive 3000l. per annum. This was a specimen of internal improvement. Not, I suppose, in the branches of finance and economy. It is true, a number of surveys were executed in a very short period of time, at the rate of from 20l. to 30l. each. But who were they done by and how were they executed? They were in general done by men whose paucity of talents made them from want, grasp at any employment.—The first surveyor went to jail for debt, just after he gave in his report. The next person who was employed is now a pauper in Morden College, Blackheath; some have been bankrupts, and others have run away. Two or three only came forwards whose property enabled them to display a commendable zeal. How ridiculous is it to expect a vast undertaking to be accomplished on such mean and ungenerous principles, indeed, it is an undertaking that I doubt could ever be accomplished as it ought to be, were thousands spent to effect it. The consequence was, the surveys were very badly done, were the ridicule of the farming world, and it has ever since been the maxim among the generality of farmers, to laugh at every subsequent exertion of the board.—But the board say, that they have been of considerable use in promoting the improvement of husbandry, and that they have made agriculture the fashion among men of property. Can twenty or thirty gouty old gentlemen going every Tuesday to Sackville Street, to hear a few insipid letters from persons who seldom understand the subject, they attempt to discuss, inspire young fellows of spirit with a passion for the plough?—If agriculture is a more fashionable pursuit than it formerly was, that circumstance is to be attributed more to the Essays in the Annals of Agriculture, to

the labours of those of Hume, to those of genius of above its day, in the bandmen to scatter pliment in rural formation of meetings at Coke of Norfolk, though censured, have love of farming than the champion of Agriculture met with them, have gone amidst a scene to their eyes, of Agriculture, discussions, another, unmeaning the manner, their, W, lications, hard work, them, or, ingenious, man, which, misled, covered, of farming, come, tend a few, The board, grants the drafter, a cleaner; doubt, w, been obtained, been for, tleman, v, pleased to, of private, been, gra, When, piece of, Carriage, Lord, w, mode of, ing them, them do, adopted, by offering, the subj

the labours of Anderson of Edinburgh, to those of Hunter of York, to those of Kirwan, to those of Ingenhouz, &c. Here the genius of agriculture seems to have rose above its dawn. Several agricultural societies in the kingdom had brought real husbandmen together, and their efforts had led to scatter practical knowledge and improvement in rural affairs, long previous to the formation of this boasting board. The meetings at the late Duke of Bedford's, Mr. Coke of Norfolk, Mr. Burgoyne, Mr. Western, though in some respects not free from censure, have contributed more to inspire a love of farming among young men of rank, than the chattering cabals of the Board of Agriculture. At those meetings they have met with the first geniuses in the country, seen their theories practically explained, and have gone home instructed. This too, amidst a scene of gaiety and splendour suited to their years, and their accustomed manners of living. At the sittings of the Board of Agriculture, there is nothing but tiresome discussions dictated by secret envy of one another. Nothing but pitiful broils, and unmeaning contentions. Sometimes as to the manner a book should be printed, whether their printer or publisher have cheated them. Whether they should have the publications out of the public money, and the hard working farmer be obliged to pay for them; or of what has become of the ingenious manuscript of some enlightened man, which had somehow or other been mislaid, and could no where again be discovered. Is this calculated to inspire a love of farming? No, the fact is, gentlemen become members, pay their subscription, attend a few times, and are quite tired out.—The board boast much of the parliamentary grants they procured for Mr. Elkington the drainer, and for Mr. Davis the smutty wheat cleaner; but, it is a matter of considerable doubt, whether the money would ever have been obtained for these objects, had it not been for the interposition of a certain gentleman, whose South Sea researches have pleased his Sovereign, and whose fitting out of privateers on the Lincolnshire coast, has been gracious in the eye of a minister. When the board, however, under the auspices of Francis Duke of Bedford, and Lord Carrington, and by order of the House of Lords were directed to inquire into the best mode of breaking up grass lands, of converting them into tillage, and of again laying them down to grass, and they accidentally adopted a part of the plan I have suggested, by offering premiums for the best essays on the subject, how worthy of admiration was

the result! Could a more irrefragable proof be imagined of the efficacy of proper premiums being judiciously offered? I know, I may be told, that, in the volumes of communications of the board there are very valuable essays. So there are! But how were they obtained? Not in the above fair and impartial manner. They were procured by means which have disgusted the major part of the authors. Though they are known to possess a great fund of agricultural knowledge, yet they have withdrawn their exertions, having fully experienced the feeble spirit of the board in rewarding them. Institutions should ever recollect these maxims, that a labourer is always worthy of his hire, and should be paid according to his merit: that promises are easily given (even of things not to be obtained) but that donations of sterling money is a far more secure mode of commanding the talents of the able and meritorious.—Thus I have shewn all that such a body of men could do, and ought to have attempted with 3000*l.* per annum; and, that the Board of Agriculture have projected schemes which neither their income nor their flimsy tampering with genius could accomplish the execution of. Certainly the minister who has permitted all this must have little knowledge of the character of men. He can have no just idea of the value of money or of labour. For he has certainly established an institution with a name which boasts of effecting the greatest benefits to the country, and he has not given it a fund commensurate to attaining the end proposed, and he has placed the conducting of it in the hands of individuals, who seem totally unequal to the task. Unless, indeed, they have been led on by secret promises of support, which has not been given. If this be not the case, are we to suppose, that in creating such an institution the minister was flattering the public with the hope of their condition being improved, while he was gently sliding millions out of their pockets, and while he was amusing the restless spirits of some individuals, who were, perhaps, tired with waiting for long promised honours. If any person doubt that the income of the board is inadequate to effect what its title proclaims it was intended to perform, I beg to inform him, that the first president made the attempt, and set off with the idea of prosecuting a statistical inquiry, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of the people, which he was obliged to abandon for want of resources. The agricultural survey of counties was a branch of the plan. From the whole it was intended to draw up a general view of the state of the kingdom, and

to point out the best means of improving the condition of it, the performing of which was likewise given up from the same cause. How the collateral branch has been executed I have already shewn. The board has since been much employed in trying to improve, and to botch up the surveys. How they have succeeded in this will appear in my next letter.—Now, for the present, leaving these worthy advocates for improvement, and for the security of the most sacred ecclesiastical rights of the church, and those friends and benefactors of the human race, I will conclude with wishing you every blessing that a true friend to political liberty merits.—I remain your most obedient servant,—SKYTHEUS,—Minchin Hampton, July 3, 1805.

DOMESTIC OFFICIAL PAPERS.

PETITIONS AGAINST LORD MELVILLE.—*Petition presented to the House of Commons from the County of Kent, on the 3d of July, 1805.*

A petition of the noblemen, gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders, of the County of Kent, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, that the proceedings of the House, in consequence of the detection of the flagrant abuses, in the expenditure of the public money, which have been brought to light by the Commissioners for Naval Inquiry, have filled the minds of the petitioners with the warmest gratitude; and that the petitioners rely, with confidence, on the continued and persevering exertions of the House, for the further detection and punishment of offences of so dangerous a nature; but at the same time feel it to be a duty which they owe to themselves, and to their posterity, to express to their representatives, the natural and constitutional guardians of the purse of the people, their just sentiments of indignation, and their earnest supplications for full and ample redress; and that the petitioners respectfully represent to the House the great and increasing necessity for its rigid and vigilant attention to the due application of public money to the services to which it shall be appropriated by the wisdom of parliament, the practices which have of late prevailed, tending manifestly not only to the encouragement of fraud and speculation, but to the subversion of the fundamental principles of the constitution; and therefore praying the House, to persevere in the inquiries so happily begun, to bring all delinquents to condign and exemplary punishment, to exert the ancient and indubitable privilege of the House, of watching and con-

trolling the exercise of every branch of the Royal Prerogative, for the exclusion from his Majesty's councils of every person who has committed, countenanced, or favoured the abuses and evil practices so justly complained of, and to establish in every department that wise, liberal, and comprehensive system of economy which the exigencies of the times, and the circumstances of the arduous contest in which the country is engaged, require, and which is due equally to the interests and to the feelings of a people, who have submitted, with exemplary fortitude, to unparalleled sacrifices and burthens.

NEUTRAL SHIPS.—Order of Council relative to Neutral Ships trading with the Enemy.

GEORGE, R.—Instruction to our Courts of Admiralty, and to the commanders of our ships of war and privateers, given at our Court at St. James's the Twenty-ninth day of June, 1805, in the forty-fifth year of our reign.—In consideration of the present state of commerce, we are graciously pleased to direct, that neutral vessels, having on board the articles hereinafter enumerated, and trading directly or circuitously, between the ports of our United Kingdom, and the enemy's ports in Europe (such ports not being blockaded), shall not be interrupted in their voyages by our ships of war, or privateers, on account of such articles, or any of them, being the property of our subjects, trading with the enemy, without having obtained our special licence for that purpose: and if any neutral vessel, trading as aforesaid, shall be brought into our ports for adjudication, such vessel shall be forthwith liberated by our Courts of Admiralty, together with the enumerated articles laden therein, which shall be shewn to be British or neutral property.—EXPORTS. List of goods permitted to be exported to Holland, France, and Spain.—British manufactures (not naval or military store)—grocery, alum, annatia, coffee, cocoa, calicoes, coperas, drugs (not dying drugs), rhubarb, spices, ginger, pepper, tobacco, vitriol, elephant's teeth, pimento, cinnamon, nutmegs, cornelian stone, nankeens, East-India bales, tortoise-shell, cloves, red, green, and yellow earth, earthen-ware, indigo (not exceeding five tons in one vessel), woollens, rum, and prize goods, not prohibited to be exported.—IMPORTS. From Holland—Grain (if importable according to the provisions of the corn laws,) salted provisions of all sorts (not being salted beef or pork), oak, bark, flax, flax seed, clover, and other seed, madder

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PUBLIC PAPER.

TRADE BETWEEN HOLLAND AND GREAT BRITAIN.—Proclamation of their High Mightinesses relative to the Trade with Great Britain. Issued May 31, 1805.

Their high mightinesses representing the Batavian republic, to all those who shall see these presents, or hear the same read, greeting, make known:—That, the proposition of the Raadpensionary, to the following effect, having been received and approved by us, has consequently been resolved, so as enacted by these presents.

ART. I. That, from the promulgation hereof, all laws, publications, ordinances and decrees, made and passed until the date of these presents, against the trade with Great Britain, the importation of British merchandizes and manufactures, and the exportation of sundry articles of ammunition, naval stores, or provisions, are held annulled and without effect, so as it is enacted by these presents, and with the same also all orders and instructions issued to officers in the service of this country on the aforesaid subject.

—ART. II. That no vessels, coming directly from ports situated in Great Britain, or any place or places in Europe possessed or garrisoned by civil or military authorities subject to the said empire, and having partly or wholly loaded there, shall be admitted into this republic, nor into the ports of the same. —ART. III. That any vessel which, notwithstanding, should venture to enter, from any port or ports in Great Britain, or any other ports in Europe dependent thereon, without any, or with false or stimulated papers, shall be confiscated, together with all the goods she may have taken at said port or ports, independent of what the same may consist.

—ART. IV. That the master or commander of a vessel, coming from neutral countries, which by necessity, contrary wind, or any other defect or want, may have put into any port or ports of Great Britain, whether that the same has discharged there and afterwards re-loaded in whole or in part the discharged goods, or whether the cargo has remained untouched, shall be obliged to declare the same on his entrance in the river, at the first office of the customs. In which case, if such vessel should have taken in at any such port or ports any additional or other goods or merchandizes which did not belong to her original cargo, such additional goods only will be confiscated; but, if it should afterwards appear that the master or commander of such vessel has concealed and not immediately reported such goods as may not have belonged to the original cargo, the master will be further liable to a penalty of

roots, salted hides and skins, leather, rushes, hoops, saccharum saturni, barilla, smalts, yarn, saffron, butter, cheese, quills, clinkers, terrace, Geneva, vinegar, white lead, oil, turpentine, pitch, hemp, bottles, wainscot boards, raw materials, naval stores, lace, and French cambrics and lawns.—From France—Grain (as above), salted provisions of all sorts (not being salted beef or pork), seeds, saffron, rags, oak bark, turpentine, hides, skins, honey, wax, fruit, raw materials, linseed cakes, tallow, weld, wine, lace, French cambrics and lawns, vinegar and brandy.—From Spain—Cochineal, barilla, fruit, orchella weed, Spanish wool, indigo, hides, skins, shumac, liquorice juice, seeds, saffron, silk, sweet almonds, Castile soap, raw materials, oak bark, aniseed, wine, cork, black lead, naval stores, vinegar, and brandy.

And we are further pleased to direct, that the foregoing enumeration may be added to, or altered by an order of the Lords of our Councils.—By his Majesty's command.

HAWKESBURY, in the fourth day of June 1805, in the first year of the reign of our said Majesty King George the Third.

GIBRALTAR.—Proclamation, issued at Head Quarters, Gibraltar, dated, May 22, 1805.

Whereas his Excellency the Hon. Lieutenant-Governor has had intimation from his Excellency General Castangs, that it has been thought necessary, for the better security of the health of Spain, to prohibit any person from this garrison to pass by land into the lines, and that a quarantine will be put on all those who may have occasion to go into Spain by water; also that no woollen or cotton goods will be admitted; which regulations are to commence on the first day of June next.—His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor therefore thinks it necessary to make this publicly known, that all those whom it may affect, may govern themselves accordingly.—By command,

THOMAS DODD, Secretary.

KING'S VISITS.—Letter from Lord Hawkesbury, Secretary of State for the Home Department to the Mayor of Bristol, dated, July 5, 1805.

SIR.—I lose no time in acquainting you, that his Majesty is under the necessity of postponing, for the present, his intended journey to the West of England and to the City of Bristol. I have, at the same time, the honour to express to you, by his Majesty's commands, the satisfaction which his Majesty proposes to himself in (visiting his loyal and ancient commercial City of Bristol on some future occasion.

one thousand guilders, and his vessel made answerable and actionable for the same.—

ART. V. That, in case a neutral vessel coming from Great-Britain, and bound to any neutral port or ports, should put into any port of this republic, by necessity, contrary wind, or other defect or want, the same shall be stopped at the first office of the customs, and a guard put on board the same.—

And, if the necessity of putting into said port appears doubtful, it shall be proved by sufficient documents to the satisfaction of the judge, under a penalty of one thousand guilders, to be levied under the regulation stipulated by Art. IV. That none of the men on board such vessel shall be permitted to go on shore, but under the care of the military commanders appointed for that purpose. That in case the situation in which such vessel may be found renders the immediate departure practicable, and wind and weather permitting, the master shall be ordered and obliged to comply therewith. That the vessel being in want of repairs, and it being necessary to land the whole or part of the cargo, the same shall be housed and kept in the custody of the officers of the customs of this republic, and shall be afterwards re-shipped, without that any part of the same may be kept back and remain in the country. That the vessel not being able to proceed on her intended voyage, after sufficient proofs have been given to this effect, and a licence has been obtained from the commissary for the affairs of the customs, the goods will be permitted to be exported in another vessel, and be re-shipped on board the same under the same precautions as would have been observed in case of re-shipment on board the original vessel, under this proviso, however, that the vessel, on board of which such goods may be shipped, shall not be allowed to load any other goods, without a special licence previously obtained for that purpose. That, with regard to goods which might be found damaged to such a degree that the same could not be re-exported, without incurring the risk of a total loss, a permission will be granted to sell the same, according to the exigencies of the case, and under such precautions as will be prescribed by the board of customs. That all goods found on board such vessel, of which no documents are to be found establishing the neutrality of the same, will be considered as the property of inhabitants of Great Britain, and be confiscated as such, without any claims of reclamation being admitted; and this until such time as when the rule free

ship, free merchandize, will be admitted by the government of Great Britain.—ART.

VI. That the masters of vessels situated as in the foregoing articles, as well as of those arriving in ballast, who may have received any letter or letters or packets on board, in any port or ports of Great Britain, or at sea, from any English ship or vessel, or any other coming from the said ports, shall be obliged to deliver the same, on their arrival, to the military officer, authorised for that purpose, in the different roadsteads and harbours of this republic, under a penalty of one thousand guilders, if they have acted contrary thereto, and should be convicted thereof, either immediately or at any time thereafter during the vessel's stay in this republic.—

ART. VII. That, with alteration of the 106th and 112th articles of the general placart on levying the customs of the 31st of July, 1725, during the present war with the Empire of Great Britain, all vessels, from whatever port or place the same may come, besides the general declaration or other acts required in the said articles, shall be bound to deliver at the first office of customs all public acts or documents, and ship's-papers, together with the bills of lading or charter-parties of their cargoes, on board, or at least attested copies of the same, without any of the same being withheld, which shall be sealed up in presence of the masters, and by them also, if they should think proper, and immediately sent up to the commissary for the affairs of the customs in the departments to which the place of the destination is subject. That the master and mate shall be obliged to take the following oath or affirmation before the officers at the outer or first office of customs upon the delivery of the papers: "We the underwritten master" and mate declare to have come with the vessel under our command, from and to be bound to, and that we have no other vouchers or acts on board concerning the cargo, but those which are delivered by us on this day to the officers at the outer or first office of customs, nor any letters received by us in any port or ports of Great Britain, or at sea from any ship or vessel; but that, for as much as any such have been received on board by us, the same are delivered up faithfully and without exception. So truly help me God Almighty!" (Or the usual form for those, who, on account of their persuasion or religious opinions, make difficulty of taking the oath.)

(To be continued.)

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